

July 13, 2005

The Honorable Robert Bunda, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 003
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

Re: Senate Bill No. 1451 SD2 HD1 CD1

On July 12, 2005, Senate Bill No. 1451, entitled "Relating to Improving Water Quality" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution.

This bill appropriates \$250,000 in general funds in FY 2006 to the Center for Conservation Research and Training at the University of Hawaii. The money is to be used to develop a watershed management plan to improve the water quality of Lake Wilson. The bill also indicates the Center is to use the money to build a wetlands design demonstration project and seek federal funds support for this project.

This project is being funded outside of the normal budgetary process. It should be pointed out that the Department of Health has already started work on identifying pollutant sources and is preparing a water pollution total daily maximum load analysis for the upper watershed and lake. Thus, it is premature to begin another study without having pinpointed the pollutant loads and sources that are involved.

While we respect the work done at the University of Hawaii, there is nothing to indicate that the University of Hawaii has the best expertise to conduct this study. The Federal Clean Water Act provides funding to the states for watershed and wetlands projects. Award of Act 319 funds is done through a competitive process that meets federal requirements and encourages the highest levels of expertise available.

Therefore, I allowed Senate Bill No. 1451 SD2 HD1 CD1 to become law as Act 248 effective July 12, 2005 without my signature.

Sincerely,

LINDA LINGLE